

NEW YORK HERALD.

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THE SITUATION.

The city was agitated yesterday by very exciting war rumors. Early in the forenoon reports got about that the proud city of Charleston had fallen before the prowess of the invincible Sherman, and that an arrangement for the immediate attainment of peace had been agreed upon between President Lincoln and Jeff. Davis. How these stories originated it is perhaps useless to consider; but, though apparently groundless, they of course created a great sensation.

The despatch of one of our Washington correspondents regarding the objects and results of Mr. Blair's second visit to the rebel capital will be found very interesting. It throws considerable light on this hitherto very dark matter. He states that the mission was not, as has been generally supposed, an entire failure, but that it resulted in fully disclosing the fact stated in Saturday's Herald, that many of the rebel chiefs are desirous of peace, and are willing to submit to much more reasonable terms than their newspaper organs would lead us to suppose, but that all are so jealous and watchful of each other that no one dares to make an advance for fear of being made the victim of some desperate and relentless faction. Another of our correspondents says that we need not be surprised to soon hear of terms for peace in proclamations of the Governors of Georgia and North Carolina.

One of our St. Louis correspondents gives us the outlines of a reported rebel project west of the Mississippi which, from its extraordinary character, might a short time ago have been considered to be woven from the flimsy fancies of a dream, but which now, during the crumbling stage of the rebellion, when the followers of Jeff. Davis can no longer be inattentive to the rocking of the ground beneath them, and are looking about in every direction for some sure footing, appears reasonable enough. It is to the effect that General E. Kirby Smith, commanding the rebel Trans-Mississippi Department, including all the rebel territory and troops west of the Mississippi river, has been for some time negotiating for a transfer of all his forces to the Emperor Maximilian, of Mexico. Though this statement is not given as positively certain, there are many circumstances to confirm it and render it probable. It is anticipated, though, that if General Smith does contemplate this important transfer of his services he will have some difficulty in effecting it, as the rebel troops of that region, always lawless and semi-disorganized set of wild characters, have become additionally demoralized since the death of old Sterling Price, their favorite chief, and may resist this wholesale military colonization.

We give this morning, compiled from accurate data, a complete roster of the rebel armies. We gave during an earlier period of the rebellion a list of the regiments of Lee's army, which was recognized and admitted by the rebels to be very accurate, and which a Richmond paper declared had come from the rebel War Office. We now give, from the same source of information, a complete showing of all the armies of the rebellion as they are organized at the present time. The figures accompanying the organization show that the full strength of the rebels is only one hundred and sixty-eight thousand nine hundred and fifty men of all arms. This is their fullest strength. These forces are scattered from the James to the Red rivers, and from the Atlantic coast to the Indian Territories. It is shown very conclusively that the only army upon which the rebels can depend is the Army of Northern Virginia. This is the only organization which the enemy has deserving the name, and the only army which we now have to overcome.

Since the termination of the severe artillery firing caused by the unsuccessful attempt of the rebel fleet, on last Tuesday, to make a raid down the James river, the previous quiet has existed in that region, and nothing but occasional exchanges of shots between the pickets now disturb the serenity of affairs there.

We publish in this morning's Herald the official War Department orders in relation to several matters the main facts of which have already been given in the Herald. They relate to an agreement with the rebel authorities for the mutual release from severe punishment of prisoners of war, the addition of North Carolina to the military Department of the South, the consolidation of the departments of the Cumberland and the Ohio, and the reannexing of Arizona Territory to the Department of the Pacific, under command of Major General McDowell.

Admiral Porter reports the capture, on last Tuesday night, in Cape Fear river, of another blockade running steamer—the *Blenheim*, from Nassau, with a valuable assorted cargo.

We have already noticed the arrival at this port of the blockade running steamers *Stag* and *Charlotte*, captured in Cape Fear river by Admiral Porter's fleet, after the fall of Fort Fisher. The *Stag* was captured by the United States steamer *Maratona*, Lieutenant Commander Young, and at the time of her seizure was commanded by Lieutenant Commander K. H. Gayle, of the rebel navy. It is believed that she was intended to be fitted out as a privateer after reaching Wilmington. She was sent North in charge of Acting Master E. L. Goodwin, prize master; Acting Ensign J. W. Crowell, executive officer, and Second Assistant Engineer R. L. Webb, acting chief.

Major General Butler arrived in Lowell, Mass., on last Saturday, and in the evening had an enthusiastic reception in a public hall by his fellow townsmen. He was welcomed by the Mayor, and in reply made an address of an hour's duration, reviewing and defending his military career. He spoke in very complimentary terms of the President and General Terry, and said that it is idle to talk of peace until the rebel Army of Northern Virginia is either defeated or captured.

At a meeting of the Christian Commission, held last night in the hall of the House of Representatives, at Washington, the President and members of the Cabinet were present. Secretary Seward presided, and in his address gave a brief review of the commencement, progress and decline of the rebellion, and said that now "we wait only at the hands of the rebels for the submission which, however delayed, necessarily follows military defeat and overthrow."

Included in the large supply of extracts from rebel papers given in this morning's Herald is the statement that General John C. Breckinridge has been appointed to succeed Mr. Seldon as rebel Secretary of War. Gen. Dick Taylor has succeeded to the command of General Hood. The Richmond *Sentinel* says that measures have been taken for burning all the cotton in North and South Carolina and Georgia liable to fall into the hands of the Union forces. General Hill has issued an official order for the destruction of as much of the staple as is stored at Augusta,

Ga., and vicinity, on the approach of the national troops, "even at the peril of the city."

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamer *America*, from Southampton on the 18th instant, arrived at this port yesterday. Her European news is three days later than that brought by the *Cuba*. Rumors prevailed in Paris contradictory of the report published in the *Herald* on last Wednesday and Friday, to the effect that the Emperor Maximilian, of Mexico, had ceded to Louis Napoleon the States of Sonora, Durango, Sinaloa, Chihuahua and Lower California. The Paris reports state that Marshal Bazaine has received orders from the French Emperor to seize and hold Sonora as indemnity for the expenses incurred by the French government in placing Maximilian on the Mexican throne.

The London *Times* discusses the proposition of some of our Southern rebels, for the sake of insuring their separation from the North, to place their confederacy under the protection of some strong European government, and says that none of these Powers would be likely to accept the offer if it should be made, even with the agreement to abolish slavery.

Some of the London papers attempt to be very severe on Mr. Seward and the Brazilian government for the supposed settlement of the difficulty regarding the seizure of the rebel pirate *Florida* in the port of Bahia.

The number of persons on board the rebel blockade running steamer *Lelia* which foundered at the mouth of the Mersey, on the 15th instant, was variously estimated at between thirty and sixty, only eight of whom were known to be saved.

In the town of Nicandro, on the Gulf of Yucatan, shocks of earthquake have been daily felt during the last seven months, and to these have lately been added subterranean noises, in consequence of which it is feared that a volcano is about to burst forth there, and the people are leaving the place.

The Theatre Royal, at Edinburgh, was totally destroyed by fire on the 18th inst., and a number of persons were killed and injured.

It was reported in London that Queen Victoria had made the poet Tennyson a baronet.

Work on the Atlantic telegraph was being rapidly pushed forward, and it is expected that the entire cable will be ready by the 1st of next June.

Consols closed in London on the 17th inst. at eight-ninety and five-eighths to eighty-nine and seven-eighths for money. The Liverpool cotton and breadstuffs markets on the same day were dull, with a declining tendency. Provisions and produce were steady, without any quotable change.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

There was a moderation in the temperature of the atmosphere in this city and vicinity yesterday, which was welcomed by the majority of people, after the continuous severely cold weather of the several preceding days. There was not, however, a sufficient relaxation to break up the ice on the ponds, and the skating continued good, and more than the usual week days crowds participated in their favorite sport. The water in the bay and rivers around the city has been very much choked up during the past two days by floating ice, seriously obstructing navigation and causing great inconvenience to the travelling public. The boats on all the ferries have continued to run, but there has been considerable irregularity in the trips of some of them. A number of vessels lying at the North River piers have been considerably damaged by the ice; but we have not learned of serious damage to any of them.

A fire between four and five o'clock yesterday morning, in a drinking house on the corner of Jackson and Water streets destroyed and damaged stock to the extent of two hundred dollars, on which there was full insurance.

In consequence of the numerous accidents which have recently occurred in the Bergen tunnel, through which at least one hundred heavily laden trains of the New York and Erie and Morris and Essex railroads pass daily, the Judge of the Hudson County Court, of New Jersey, at the opening of the January term, called the particular attention of the Grand Jury to the matter, and those gentlemen have rendered a report highly censuring the Erie Company, and presenting the tunnel as a public nuisance.

The machine shop of the Mahoning Division of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, at Youngstown, Ohio, was destroyed by fire on the morning of the 25th. The property destroyed is valued at thirty thousand dollars.

The Cleveland iron rolling mills, located at Newburg, Ohio, were partially destroyed by fire on the 25th inst., involving a loss of forty thousand dollars, on which there are insurances for thirty thousand dollars.

A number of incendiary fires among barns and unoccupied buildings have occurred lately at Ralston, N. Y. Last Tuesday night an old brewery, used for the storage of barley and other grains, was set on fire and destroyed. The losses are estimated at twenty thousand dollars.

A fire in Richmond, Indiana, yesterday morning, destroyed property valued at two hundred thousand dollars.

On last Tuesday night, while a train on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad was approaching Cincinnati, and within two miles of that city, one of the cars, filled with passengers, became detached, and rolled down an embankment twenty-five feet high. A number of the occupants were injured, but none fatally, and they were all gathered up and placed in the other cars, and the train arrived at its destination only thirty minutes behind time.

Over one hundred and forty men, nearly all soldiers, were killed by the boiler explosion on board the steamboat *Edgemoor*, in the Tennessee river, near Johnsonville, on last Thursday.

Firing the Southern Heart—The Monroe Doctrine in a New Light.

The men of peace at the North are exceedingly unfortunate people. In vain they argue and write long leaders in favor of the rebel cause; for the rebels take a malicious pleasure in upsetting all these arguments and nullifying all these leaders. It has been the favorite theory of the peace men that the rebels were only fighting for their rights, and that we were guilty without blame for not giving them their rights without further war. Let the rebels have their slaves and their old constitutional guarantees, say the peace men, and they will return to the Union, from which the wicked abolitionists have driven them. But now, according to the Richmond organs, just such terms have been offered by Mr. Blair and were indignantly rejected. We do not believe a word of the story; but the Richmond rebels assert it, and the Northern rebels are therefore bound to credit it.

All of the rebel organs agree substantially in the statement about Mr. Blair's offer. "The enemy are willing to permit us to dictate our own terms," they say, "provided only we will not dissolve the Union. Any guarantee for slavery, any constitutional provision for its protection and extension, full compensation in greenbacks for all the negroes that have been carried off during the war, anything, everything that we can ask or think, will be freely granted, if only we will consent to reunite with them." Now, what was the answer of the rebels to this marvellously liberal offer made, as they tell us, by Mr. Blair? They spurn it; they revile it; they will not accept it. They assure us that they are fighting for independence; that they are willing to give up slavery to accomplish their independence; that no terms short of independence will satisfy them. What do the peace men and the sticklers for Southern rights say to that? Upon what ground that is not unreasonable can they now oppose the war? How can they continue to mander about concessions and compromises, when upon the authority of the rebel papers, every concession and every compromise has been thus contemptuously refused?

We have already said that we do not believe this story about the terms offered by Mr. Blair. We know it to be untrue. The rebels have concocted it to fire the Southern heart with the hope that we "are beginning to understand that the job is too big," and are at last giving way. Consequently they exhort the Southern people to "stand firm now," and assure them that they "shall soon rejoice in the enjoyment

of their liberty and independence." We cannot but smile at such a weak device and small display of ingenuity as this. Instead of firing the Southern heart this story will chill it still more; for it will convince those Southerners who believe it that Jeff. Davis is totally implacable; that he would rather see them all murdered than relinquish his despotism over them, and that nothing but extermination is to be expected under his sway. They will naturally inquire, Why where not such terms accepted if offered? They will naturally desire to return to the Union, in which, as the rebel organs solemnly inform them, "anything, everything that they can ask or think will be freely granted." Thus the rebel organs have again overreached themselves, and at a single blow the Northern peace patriots are annihilated and the suffering Southern people are supplied with a new incentive to return to the Union.

But there is another development of this futile scheme to fire the Southern heart which deserves attention. The trick in regard to the Monroe doctrine, which we exposed a few days ago, is now boldly played. "It has been suggested," say the rebel organs, "that the United States will acknowledge our independence provided a treaty of commerce and a league offensive and defensive for the application of the Monroe doctrine to all the States of North America can be agreed upon." This idea is paraded as another reason for standing firm, and another proof that we are getting tired of the attempt to restore the Union. But who suggested this idea? Why, the rebel leaders themselves. No Union man or Union paper has ever mentioned it for a moment. It is a new light in which to view the Monroe doctrine, truly. We should be excessively wise to recognize the South as a separate nation in order to get rid of Maximilian, should we not? Letting go the bird in the hand to secure the birds in the bush, is not precisely the characteristic of our statesmanship. If the rebels seriously imagine that we will let them go in the hope of seizing Canada and Mexico, they are very decidedly mistaken, and we must disengage them. We would not let them go if they could give us a bond for Canada and Mexico, and throw the whole of South America into the bargain. There are no possible terms upon which we can acknowledge their independence, and as they have rejected all terms for reunion, according to their own *canard*, nothing remains but to fight it out. Blairs, Jewetts, Singletons, Greeleys and Jacquesss may flourish for a while, but the Herald holds to its opinion that our generals and admirals, soldiers and sailors are our only practical peace-makers.

The Wealth and Poverty of the Metropolis.

Though enough of the poor are always with us, they were never, perhaps, so superabundant as they are now; nor have we in many years had a season so hard on the houseless heads and unfed sides of the children of want as the present. It has been a winter of continuously severe weather, and promises even yet to stretch out to the extreme possible limit. All the necessities of life are at what must seem to the poor almost fabulous prices. Coal, meat, flour, potatoes, are all very high—and it would be a strange thing, considering the constitution of society, if there were not thousands in a city like ours suffering every day the pangs of hunger, and hundreds ready to die from absolute want. Yet this is, in proportion to the population, the richest city in the universe; there is a more general diffusion of wealth than in most other cities, and certainly lavish and even wasteful expenditure goes to its extreme here.

To provide against the occurrence of misery from want in a great city is doubtless impossible so long as we cannot utterly change the motives and natures of the whole mass of men and women; and to relieve the misery of the really needy without encouraging idleness and vice is sufficiently difficult. But, though it is difficult, an earnest attempt to solve the problem is a social duty. And we believe that the problem is only to be solved by the personal inspection of individual cases. Disburse your own charity if you can afford any; but if you cannot take trouble to know that you are giving to the really needy, do not give at all. The beggars are the worst of all criminals who infest our streets. They are the murderers of those who die by starvation, and they steal on its way—catch in the air with their greasy caps—the cent thrown to the mother who watches over her hungry child. The necessities poor hardly ever make a personal appeal for alms on the street, and the only personal appeal that people ought to respond to favorably is the cry of a child at the basement door for victuals. Feed the child anyhow—even if you do not give it anything to carry away. But the pennies that you give to starveling beggars on the street are spent for rum, and you send the man or woman home an infuriated beast, to fight and murder, or, at the very least, to maim the little wretches who are so miserable as to call these creatures mother or father. If, moreover, a cripple can sit up all day in the street, he can sit up all day at some sedentary occupation and earn enough to live on. One of the worst phases of street beggary, as seen here, is that of the boys who pretend to peddle pins at the upper part of Broadway, and who annoy every woman who passes by with their importunate "Please, lady, please! Do buy some! I ain't sold any to-day."

Some of these wretches make their appearance barefooted in the severest weather, and will do so if given shoes half a dozen times a day, enduring all that pain to excite sympathy and get coppers.

We do not entirely discourage organized charity. There is no doubt that the large number of societies, public and private, organized for charitable purposes, relieve much misery, and it is a great deal better to give through the societies than not to give at all. But we believe that one dollar spent by the man or woman who goes personally where the wretched are will be spent more effectively and will do more real good than two or three spent through the agencies of societies. Moreover, that kind of charity relieves the class of poor that is not in the books of one society, that is out of the scope of another society, and that the red tape of organized charity has left to starve; but which never holds out its hand to the passer by, and cannot do it. This class is the poor who usually earn a small subsistence by their own labor, but find themselves temporarily unable to do so, or find that their small means are at present inadequate for their maintenance. Notwithstanding the common impression that there is plenty of employment now for all, this class is large, and in the present year is no doubt all the larger by the

comparative helplessness of many families and friends of soldiers suddenly deprived of their accustomed support.

We would urge the wealthy and charitable of the city to go personally in search of these. Make it an occupation, and let it introduce an object of interest into a life that will otherwise pass in idle and elegant wretchedness. The lady who has no occupation but to decide whether the one more unnecessary dress shall be *oafs* or *lairs* or *our* color, will be better satisfied with the result if she, in person, spends that extra hundred dollars on the twenty-five floors of five tenement houses and up the wretched alleys that run between. The filth that she gets on her dainty gaiters will wash away; but the tender glance of human sympathy that it develops in her beautiful eyes will stay there, and the horror that she will feel over her own wastefulness will not be lost; nor need those who have only five dollars to spare, or even one dollar, stay at home and shiver over the register. An invalid gave, in his other Christmas gifts, to a little girl five dollars, that she was in turn to give to a poor and hungry family, where it would not probably be spent for rum. It was a good gift. It has not yet passed out of the little girl's hands; but it has already done more good than any one would suppose was in five dollars; and before it does go out of her hands it will do more good than ever did any fifty dollars given to a society. Is such a family so hard to find that the little girl has got the money yet? Perhaps so; for in the lives and misery of the city poor it is very hard to tell how much is due to rum. But it is good to send a little girl and her grown up acquaintances in search of such a family. For even where their conscientiousness will not let them give the money, they give twenty other things that relieve wretchedness even more certainly. They send comfortable meals, and perhaps clothing, to the little children and to the half sickly half degraded mother. They breathe on the glimmer of better nature that perhaps still lives in the drunken father, and they send the voice of pure women, laden with cheer and encouragement, into the soul of the grown up girl who does not see what there is in life, and who just trembles on the threshold of the brothel. We recommend a similar attempt to spend five dollars to the rich and idle who have charitable natures, in the certainty that the contact it will necessitate is the only means to open the eyes of the rich to the miseries of the poor, and thence the only means to stimulate a real and effective charity.

Rebel Reorganization—The Virtual Degradation of Davis.

General Lee is finally appointed generalissimo of all the forces of the rebel States—supreme director of the whole military power by which the rebels hope to secure the ultimate triumph of their bad cause. He relinquishes the immediate command of the Army of Northern Virginia to General Joseph E. Johnston. This is good news to the North, in more ways than one. It is good because, as a very severe double disapproval of the acts of Davis, it tends to further distraction of the enemy's councils; because it deprives the enemy of the advantages of General Lee's abilities in the only sphere in which he can be of any use, and because it very practically takes all the fight out of the rebel army of Northern Virginia. Here are three great benefits to our cause, that directly flow from this change in the enemy's organization. The appointment of Lee is the repudiation of Davis as a military director—a direct imputation that another man can do better, and thence that Davis is responsible for all the disasters. The appointment to the command of the principal rebel army of Jos. E. Johnston, whom Davis has so persistently kept in retirement, gives emphasis to this; and the two together amount to the entire adoption of the policy of that class of rebels who declare that Davis is an imbecile.

Lee has been moderately successful in the command of a single army. Only moderately, because, when we consider the imbecility that has been opposed to him on our side, it is evident that a man of great genius, in the same position, would have conquered a peace on the Hudson river. He is now suddenly taken from that army and ordered to take general charge of half a dozen scattered and fragmentary armies, of whose affairs he knows very little. He will not direct them for six months so effectively as Davis has done, and those six months are the vital ones. Thus this act takes Lee from the army, where he could serve well, to a sphere where he is useless. As for the main rebel army it is now commanded by a retreater. Johnston always retreats. Retreat is his solution of every military difficulty, and when he does fight it is only in order that he may retreat more easily. Such is his history and his nature. His appointment will have a bad effect on the army that has been hitherto commanded by Lee. But he is the ablest retreater in the rebel service, and his appointment may therefore be an indication of policy. It may possibly mean the final abandonment of the sacred soil. Davis is by these changes virtually deposed—not actually. He cannot touch the army, and the army is the confederacy; but he can touch the minor points that will affect the confederacy greatly. He can negotiate for peace, and as the other leaders go on step by step in the establishment of the actual dictatorship Davis will take especial care of the interests of Davis. He will make peace, as the only means of personal escape from the difficulties of his position. His Northern foes are now his friends by comparison with the vindictive ferocity of those domestic foes who hedge him round even in his capital.

We give to-day the entire organization of all the rebel armies that thus pass under Lee. Practically this whole military power is in three divisions—the Army of the Mississippi, the Army of the Tennessee, and the Army of Northern Virginia—all other forces, even Hardee's, are made up of militia grouped round a small nucleus of regular troops. Price's army—the Mississippi—is of no present account. Hood's army may number twenty thousand, but is in such a position that it cannot influence the pending fate of the rebellion. The total of the force distributed at all points south of Petersburg and north of the Savannah river is not over twenty thousand; nor are more than five or eight thousand of these soldiers. The army lately under Lee, now under Johnston, numbers seventy thousand men. That army is the rebellion, and the government has only to crush those seventy thousand in order to put the rebellion down. With the forces we now have, and the generals who direct it, this service will be comparatively easy. Let the government put all its available force in the hands of Grant to strike in his own good time, and

the work will be well done, and done so soon that, though the three hundred thousand men now called for will undoubtedly take the field, it is not probable that they will see a battle. Let the government send fifteen or twenty thousand more good six foot peace negotiators to Grant within the next twenty days, and it will soon be easier to convince Jeff. Davis than Blair has found it.

THE WEST POINT ACADEMY IN DANGER.

A clause has been attached to the Military Academy Appropriation bill in the lower house of Congress repealing the fourth section of the act approved April 1, 1864, which provides that cadets found extremely deficient at any examination "shall not be continued at the Military Academy, or be reappointed, except upon the recommendation of the Academic Board." As the repeal of this provision would strike a heavy blow at the discipline of West Point, we trust that the Senate may have the wisdom and sense of public duty to strike it out. If the students having strong political influence are informed that, even though found grossly inattentive or incapable, they can still be reappointed without the concurrence of the Academic Board, the present strong incentive to untiring industry will be taken away, and a protracted education at West Point will no longer be any evidence of intelligence and good habits. The Academy is now doing admirably under the care of General Colburn, of the Engineers, and its rigorous discipline should not be interfered with. Letting anything which is already very well severely alone is not bad policy. The decisions of the Academic Board cannot be improved by the intermeddling of politicians.

BRITISH FAIR PLAY.—The latest news from England informs us that a Peruvian man-of-war was lying in the Thames waiting for the declaration of war between Peru and Spain, in order to prey upon the commerce of the latter Power, and that her commander had been arrested by the English authorities for violating the Foreign Enlistment act. This is all very fine in the case of Peru; but when did the British show any such eagerness to stop the enlistments for a rebel privateer? Spain is in league with England and France to make a raid upon South America while we are engaged in civil war, and therefore the captain of a Peruvian privateer is arrested so soon as he sets foot upon British soil; but the rebels are engaged in doing the dirty work of Europe by crippling this republic, and therefore the captains of rebel privateers are feted and feasted, their ships armed and provisioned, their enlistments encouraged, and the government arsenals opened to them if they desire to purchase Armstrong guns. After our civil war is over we shall right all these wrongs.

THE QUOTA OF NEW YORK CITY.—The quota of this city has been increased by the Provost Marshal General; he has refused to reduce it upon the remonstrances of Supervisor Blunt; and all that we can do is to enlist all the men possible and stand a draft for the balance. But, at the same time, we protest against the flagrant and outrageous injustice which has been shown to this city both in the enrolment and the apportionment. For no reason that we can discover, except the fact that the city voted for McClellan, we have been made to endure four times our fair proportion of the hardships of this conscription, while other and more favored portions of the State and country profit by our unequal burden. New York city has done more to sustain the war than any half a dozen of the loyal States. Her men and her money have been at the service of the government whenever required. She will furnish her quota now; but she will not forget those whose unpardonable ignorance or gross favoritism has caused her to be thus imposed upon at this time.

FATE OF THE REBEL LOAN.—When the news of the capture of Savannah reached England, "Confederate" scrip fell four per cent, and United States securities went up. When the Intelligence of General Butler's failure to take Fort Fisher arrived, a sudden reaction took place. This was to be expected; but when the news that the Fort is in our hands, and Wilmington virtually at our mercy, and that three valuable blockade runners have fallen into the possession of Admiral Porter, what a fearful panic there will be among the blockade running gentry and the holders of rebel scrip. They will see at once that there is an end of running cargoes to Wilmington, as they will only become a prize of the United States Navy; and as for the rebel scrip, it will become instantly worthless, for the means of paying the interest will be cut off, as no more cotton can be shipped from Wilmington, upon which the stability of the rebel loan was based. We may, therefore, calculate that the last chance of a European loan, and European sympathy, is gone with the forts on Cape Fear river.

THE HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.—The introduction of small cars on the Hudson River Railroad in this city has proved very unpopular, and we are strongly inclined to consider it illegal. Certainly it is a violation of the contract with commuters, since it compels them to pay more fare for worse accommodations. An advance of fare is wholly unauthorized, and is a swindle upon the travelling public. There is now no certainty that passengers from the lower part of the city will catch the trains at the upper depot, and the delays and inconveniences to which they are thus subjected are utterly inexorable. The railroad seems to be mismanaged in every possible way, and it appears to be conducted only for the benefit of stock speculators. The people of this city allow themselves to be imposed upon by corporations in a manner to which no other people would submit. They are robbed and cheated without mercy by any company that pleases to outrage them. Is there no remedy for this state of things? And why is not a remedy applied?

IMPORTANT MILITARY TRIALS.—The military commission, of which Brigadier General Fitz-Hugh Warren is President, and Major John A. Bollen, A. S. C., is Judge Advocate, has commenced the trial of George Anderson, charged with being a spy, and taken prisoner at the same time with Captain John Y. Baill (Boil), alias Baker, of Lake Erie steamboat seizure notoriety, whose trial is to be resumed next Wednesday. Captain Kennedy, alias Stanton, one of the parties accused of New York hotel burning, has been arraigned before the same commission, and his trial assigned for Tuesday next. These trials will be of the highest interest, and may lead to important developments.

THE REBEL ARMY.

The Important Changes in the Rebel Command.

The New Command of the Rebel General Lee.

How His Grand Army Looks On Paper.

A Complete Roster of the Rebel Armies as They Exist at This Time.

Their Full Strength Only One Hundred and Sixty-eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Men.

"Where Are the Broken Battalions of Lee?"

Sketch of the New Rebel Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., &c.

THE NEW REBEL GENERALISSIMO.

Sketch of General Robert E. Lee.

From the first hour of his installation as chief of the rebellion Jeff. Davis has ruled with an iron hand. As the autocrat of the confederacy his power, until a very late date, has been supreme and unquestioned. He absorbed in himself all the offices of his government, and has been executive, judiciary and legislature. The agents of the government have been his servile, dumb slaves. He was the centre of power—an obstinate, selfish and uncompromising dictator. With painful lack of modesty, he has never doubted his ability to study, control and direct the whirlwind which he has raised. He has even been indelicate enough to assert, in a public speech, his belief that he could direct great armies with as much, if not more ability, than any other general in the confederacy.

His people have ceased to agree with him in this respect. His obstinate persistence in wild and impracticable schemes, his steady adherence to weak and inefficient favorites, his constant refusal to listen to or follow advice, his persecution of such men as Johnston, and more than all these, his numerous failures, have cost him the confidence of the people; and with singular and, under the circumstances, significant unanimity, they have, through their representatives, rebelled against his decrees and revolutionized his government, dissolved his Cabinet, and in effect placed another and more popular leader at the actual head of affairs. Davis still sits upon the throne, but there is a power behind it. Lee's humble tent is now the rebel White House. His sword is the rebel sceptre, and he is Dictator.

We shall soon see if the change by not, as we believe it is, for the better of the country. Time will soon draw a strict comparison or contrast between the able and iron-willed despot who has been dethroned and the brave, but weak, general who succeeds him. We shall soon see if the confederacy has gained anything in exchanging Davis, who was rapidly blotting out State lines and State rights in creating a strong central government, for a leader who was so weak as to engage in a rebellion for which he declared no just cause existed, simply in obedience to the State rights doctrine which had been inculcated in him.

The new leader comes upon the scene at an important crisis of the cause for which he fights. It may be instructive and interesting at this time to inquire into his past career in order to study his character and inform ourselves with what material and under what circumstances and prospects he enters upon his new career.

THE PEDIGREE OF THE LEE FAMILY.

Robert Edmund Lee, the new commander-in-chief of the rebel armies, descends from a long line of ancestors, the list of whose names is still quoted with pride by the chivalry, probably because it embraces those of a monarchist, one of the first opponents of the United States constitution, a calumniator of Washington, a villain and libeller of Jefferson and Franklin, a partisan too violent even for old Jackson, and a rebel against the Union. These traits of character in Lee's ancestors are now looked upon as virtues. Richard Lee, an early ancestor of the rebel chieftain, was associated in 1608 with Sir William Berkeley in restoring the independent State of Virginia to the British crown, and was prominent in the ceremonies of crowning Charles II. King of England, Scotland, Ireland and Virginia. A grandson of this Richard Lee was known subsequently as "Light Horse Harry," and is described by historians of the Revolution as a dashing and brave cavalry officer, and by Jefferson as an "infanterist"—the most opprobrious epithet known to that age of plain English and unvarnished truth. Irving stamps General Charles Lee, a grand uncle of the present subject, as a calumniator of Washington, who was found guilty by court martial of a plot to supersede him as commander of the army. The present day Lee is not so proud of this General Charles as of Arthur Lee, another great uncle of Robert E. Lee, whose claims to admiration rest on the fact that he was a bitter enemy and libeller of those democratic Yankees, Franklin and Jefferson. General Henry Lee was well known as a violent partisan of the time of Jackson. Henry Lee, his son, was never prominently before the country. He married twice. His second wife was Miss Anne Carter, of Shirley, Va., by whom he had three sons—Charles Carter Lee, Sidney Smith Lee (at present in the rebel army), and Robert Edmund Lee.

The latter was born in 1806, in Virginia, and grew up in the quiet of home, without betraying any uncommon characteristics or brilliant intellect; only a boy of some cultivation, easy manners, but disposed to be quiet and reserved.

His family influence obtained him entrance to West Point, which he entered in 1825, and in which he graduated in 1829, standing number two in a class of forty-six, and leading, among others, Joseph E. Johnston, whom the war has made famous and infamous, G. M. Mitchell, Albert G. Blanchard and Theophilus H. Holmes.

On leaving West Point young Lee travelled in Europe for some months. On his return he was married to Miss Custis, of Arlington, the daughter and heiress of Gen. W. Parke Custis, the adopted son of General Washington. He thus became proprietor of the Arlington estates, which the government has lately confiscated. By this wife he has had three sons and four daughters. Brigadier General G. W. Custis Lee was slain at camp to Davis for many months, and is now commanding a portion of the garrison of Richmond. This young man graduated No. 1 in his class at West Point. Major General W. H. R. Lee, another son, commands a division of rebel cavalry. The youngest son, Robert Edmund Lee, is on the staff of his cousin, Gen. Fitz-Hugh Lee, a son of Sidney Smith Lee. Of the four daughters one has died (Anne), and the others—Mary, Agnes and Mildred—are living at Richmond, &c. unmarried.

GARRISON IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

On his graduation Lee was assigned to the Engineer corps, and promoted second lieutenant July 1, 1829. In 1833 he served as assistant astronomer for the demarcation of the boundary line between the States of Ohio and Michigan. September 21, 1836, he was promoted first lieutenant; and in 1839, July 7, he was made a captain. When the Mexican war began, he was placed on the staff of Brigadier General Wool; and during the campaign of 1846 he was chief engineer of Wool's army. At the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1847, he was brevetted major for gallantry. In the August following he again won a brevet rank by his meritorious conduct at Contreras and Churubusco. In the result on Chapultepec, September 13, 1847, he was wounded, and received therefor therevet promotion of lieutenant colonel. July 21, 1848, he was appointed a member of the Board of Engineers, and remained as such until 1850. In 1852 Lee again visited Europe, this